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CONFIDENTIAL

Action
EURControl: 10529
Rec'd: MARCH 17, 1959
9:05 AM

Info

FROM: BONN

RMR

TO: Secretary of State

SS

NO: ~~2047~~, MARCH 17, 1 PM

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION FROM USCOB BERLIN DATED 14 MARCH 1015Z

SP

SENT USAREUR; REPEATED INFORMATION BONN UNNUMBERED.

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INR

REFERENCE: NO. COB 222.

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UOP

REFERENCE: COB 221.

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IRC

1. A FOLLOW-UP INCIDENT TO THAT REPORTED IN COB 221 IS SUBMITTED BELOW.

OCB

CIA

OSD

ARMY

NAVY

AIR

2. CAPTAIN JENNINGS RECEIVED WORD AT 1245 HOURS 13 MARCH THAT CAPTAIN AXSENTOFF, SOVIET CHECKPOINT OFFICER, WAS AT UNITED STATES CHECKPOINT TO TALK TO HIM. AXSENTOFF STATED HIS SUPERIOR COLONEL SAFRONOV, WAS CONCERNED ABOUT FACT WE WERE SENDING A UNITED STATES SOLDIER TO RUSSIAN CHECKPOINT EVERYTIME A CONVOY (NOTE: WE DO NOT FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE FOR SINGLE VEHICLES) WENT INTO OR CAME OUT OF BERLIN. SAFRONOV WANTED TO KNOW WHY JENNINGS TOLD AXSENTOFF THIS MAN WAS THERE TO ASSIST THE CONVOY COMMANDER. AXSENTOFF REPLIED THAT SAFRONOV DESIRED THAT WE NOT SEND A PERSON TO THEIR CHECKPOINT. JENNINGS RESTATED OUR REASON FOR THE MAN BEING PRESENT. AXSENTOFF THEN ASKED JENNINGS IF HE WOULD MEET WITH SAFRONOV AT 1700 HOURS. JENNINGS QUERIED THIS HEADQUARTERS AND GIVEN PERMISSION, JENNINGS, LIEUTENANT COTD (OFFICER FROM BERLIN VISITING HELMSTEDT) MET WITH SAFRONOV WHO ASKED WHY A MAN CAME TO HIS CHECKPOINT. SAFRONOV STATED MEN HAD NO DOCUMENTS AND IT LOOKED LIKE WE DID NOT TRUST THE RUSSIAN OFFICERS. JENNINGS REPLIED THAT THE MAN WAS THERE TO ASSIST THE CONVOY COMMANDER IN CLEARING. SAFRONOV STATED THIS WAS SOMETHING NEW, NOTE: PROCEDURE IN EFFECT SINCE 26 FEBRUARY 1959) AND HIS HEADQUARTERS HADN'T BEEN INFORMED OF IT. FURTHER STATED IF SOMEONE CAME OVER TO HIS CHECKPOINT TO TALK TO HIM OR HIS

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NND 877418

By

BG

NAPA Date 10/7/8

Correction made
by RM/R

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OR HIS OFFICERS THEY DID NOT NEED DOCUMENTS BUT THIS MAN DOES NOT COME OVER TO NEGOTIATE, HE JUST WATCHES THE RUSSIAN CONTROL OF THE CONVOY. SAFRONOV STATED THAT HE DESIRED WE DISCONTINUE THIS PROCEDURE. IF WE DID NOT HE MIGHT NOT ALLOW THE PERSONS TO PROCEED THROUGH BARRIER TO RUSSIAN CHECKPOINT. HE ASKED JENNINGS TO SO INFORM HIS HEADQUARTERS.

3. SINCE THIS DOES NOT INVOLVE PROCEDURES PER SE, I AM ARRANGING FOR A MEETING BETWEEN PROVOST MARSHAL BERLIN COMMAND AND COLONEL SAFRONOV ON MONDAY, 16 MARCH IN ORDER THAT THIS MATTER BE DISCUSSED ON AN AMICABLE BASIS AT THE OPERATIONAL LEVEL. AM DELAYING CONVOY SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY PENDING RESULTS THIS MEETING. PERTINENT RELATED POINT IS THAT MP NCO ACTUALLY CROSSES INTO EAST GERMANY (SOVIET ZONE) TERRITORY WITHOUT TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION AND IS VULNERABLE TO BEING TURNED BACK OR ARRESTED AND TURNED OVER TO EAST GERMANS. TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION, OF COURSE, WOULD REQUIRE CONTINUED TRAVEL THROUGHOUT AUTOBAHN TO NEXT SOVIET CHECKPOINT.

4. REGRADE UNCLASSIFIED 14 MARCH 1960.

TASCA

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